

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COA-02 EB-11 CG-00 COME-00 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /111 W
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R 262127 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9569

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3527

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, CO, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELA/ COLUMBIA: NEGOTIATIONS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON SEPARATE SUBJECT, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN POLICY IN FONMINISTRY, DR. PEREZ CHIRIBOGA, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD BEEN DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH COLOMBIA HAD NOT CONTINUED. DR. PEREZ, WHO HAS ACTED AS DEPUTY NEGOTIATOR IN ROME FOR VENEZUELA, SAID THAT NEGOTIATING POSITIONS WERE BY NOW EXTREMELY CLOSE AND DIVIDED ONLY BY ONE POINT OF PRINCIPLE AND A RELATIVELY FEW SQUARE MILES OF CONTINENTAL SHELF. HE SAID VENEZUELA WANTED TO CONTINUE TALKS OR AT LEAST STATE THAT BILATERAL TALKS WOULD BE CONTINUED. HOWEVER, COLUMBIA WAS ADAMANT AGAINST ANY REFERENCE TO BILATERAL TALKS IN PUBLIC STATEMENT WHILE NOT EXCLUDING PRIVATELY THAT TALKS COULD GO ON.

2. DR. PEREZ SAID THAT ALREADY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IN VENEZUELA WAS PROBABLY TOO FAR ADVANCED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. WHEN ASKED BY EMBOFF WHETHER IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THAT DR. CALDERA WITH HIS ENORMOUS PRESTIGE COULD CONCEIVABLY REACH AGREEMENT AS LAME DUCK PRESIDENT BETWEEN DECEMBER ELECTIONS AND MARCH 1974 TURNOVER OF POWER, DR. PEREZ SAID THIS WAS INDEED A POSSIBILITY BUT AT THAT
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TIME COLOMBIA ITSELF WOULD ALREADY BE IN FULL POLITICAL
CAMPAIGN.

3. DR. PEREZ SAID HE HOPED THAT FURTHER GROUND COULD BE
COVERED WHEN COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VASQUEZ CARRIZOSA
VISITS CARACAS, POSSIBLY NOW IN LATE MAY, AND SUBSEQUENTLY
DURING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT PASTRANA BORRERO.
MCCLINTOCK

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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